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**From:** Montgomery, Michael  
**Sent:** Thur 7/9/2015 5:25:30 PM  
**Subject:** heads up

CA released the "Independent Scientific Assessment of Well Stimulation in CA" required by SB4. Significant recommendations include limiting the use of hazardous or poorly understood chemicals and evaluate and report the chemical content of disposal water associated with well stimulation. There is also a section which addresses the evaluation of wells which were permitted into protected aquifers and acknowledges that some of the disposal fluids likely contained chemical from well stimulation. Finally, the Report is **critical of the Federal regulation of fracturing and acid stimulation in offshore wells which are beyond State jurisdiction.**

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Pursuant to Senate Bill 4 (Pavley 2013), the California Natural Resources Agency has commissioned the California Council on Science and Technology (CCST) to conduct an independent scientific assessment of well stimulation treatments, including hydraulic fracturing, in California.

The purpose of the report is to synthesize and assess the available scientific information associated with well stimulation treatments (WST) in California. The review will survey hydraulic fracturing, matrix acidizing, and acid fracturing as they are applied both onshore and offshore for oil and gas production in the state. The study workscope is organized in three major areas, which will be documented in three separate report volumes, described below.

CCST is establishing an interdisciplinary steering committee to oversee the effort that will include experts in technical areas relevant to well stimulation and its impacts in California. Dr. Jane C.S. Long will serve as the science lead for the project and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley Lab) will be the primary research institution supporting CCST in the scientific assessment. CCST will issue the final report following peer review. "Our effort is to provide independent, scientific, peer-reviewed information that can inform policymakers," said Susan Hackwood, Executive Director of CCST.

## Report Volumes and Release Dates

CCST delivered the final volumes of the report to the California Natural Resources Agency on July 1, 2015.

CCST will release the final volumes of the report to the public and host a public webinar on July 9, 2015.

### Public Webinar Information:

- Date: July 9, 2015
- Time: 3:00-4:30 pm PDT
- Location: CalEPA - Sierra Hearing Room, 1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95812

[Click here to register for the briefing](#)

**Volume II** discusses how well stimulation could affect water, atmosphere, seismic activity, wildlife and vegetation, and human health. Volume II reviews available data, and identifies knowledge gaps and alternative practices that could avoid or mitigate these possible impacts. (Public Release: July 9, 2015)

**Volume III** presents four case studies that assess environmental issues and qualitative risks for specific geographic regions: Offshore, Monterey Formation, Los Angeles Basin, and the San Joaquin Basin. (Public Release: July 9, 2015)

**Summary Report**

This document summarizes key findings, conclusions, and recommendations of all three volumes. (Public Release: July 9, 2015)

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Michael Montgomery

Acting Director - Water Division (July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015 – September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015)

US EPA Region 9

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